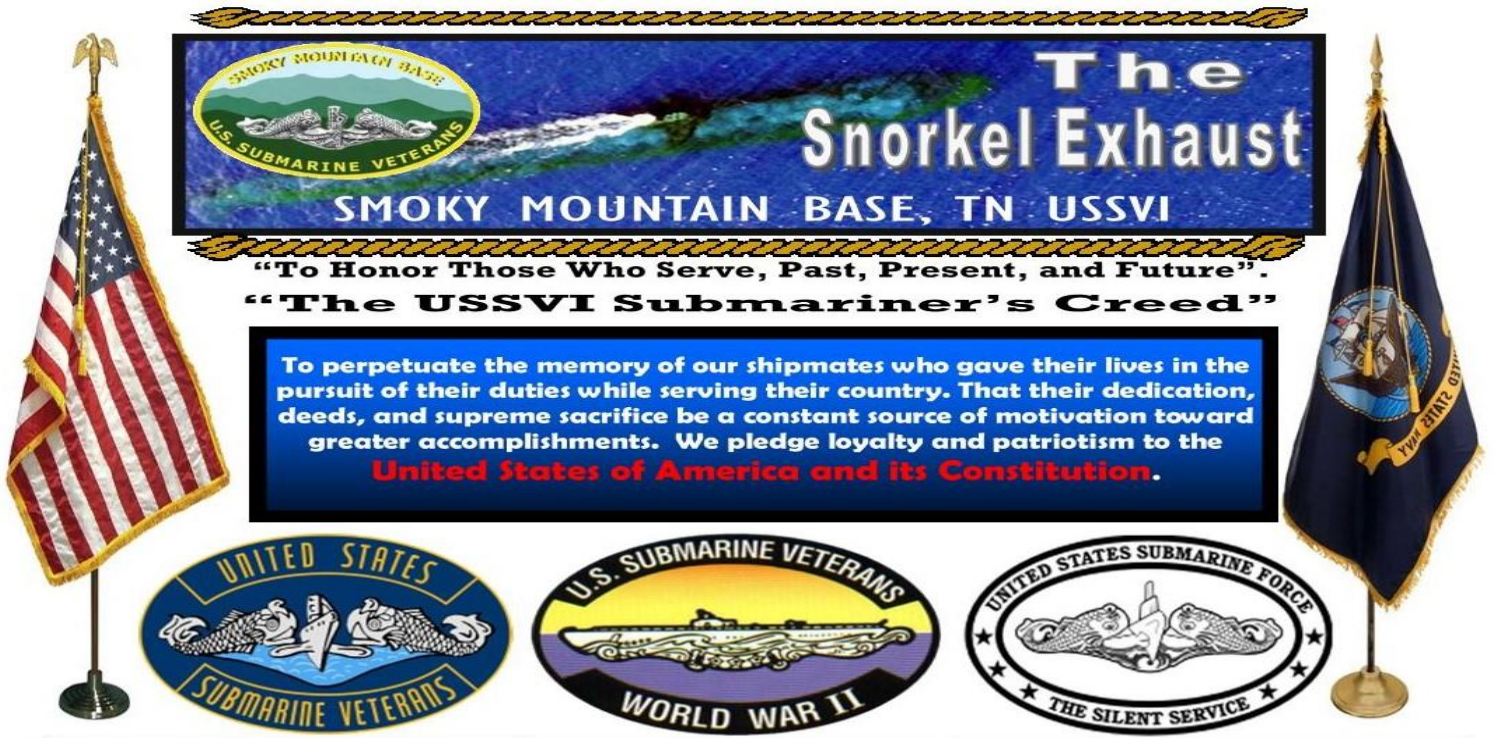




OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR FOUNDERS

OUR BROTHERHOOD

Our Mission

The organization will engage in various projects that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyles we enjoy today.



Scheduled Meetings

Base meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Thursday of each month at:
MIMI'S CAFÉ,
10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
Dinner & Social Hour @ 1800
Meeting @ 1900
 (Guests are Invited)

SNORKEL EXHAUST INDEX

AUGUST 2026

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Follow us on Facebook at:
Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans-273222054302

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE OFFICERS



BASE COMMANDER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.
Holland Club Chairman



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE VICE COMMANDER
Robert (Bob) Childs



MMC(SS) USS Nautilus SSN-571 '67



BASE SECRETARY
Ernie Ball



MMC(SS) USS LaFayette (SSBN-616) '75



BASE TREASURER
Jim Rock



MM1(SS) USS Andrew Jackson SSBN-619 '76

SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



BASE CHIEF OF THE BOAT
Terry McBride



MMC(SS) USS Woodrow Wilson (SSBN-624) '93



SOCIAL CHAIRMAN
Dick Love



ETMC(SS) USS Darter SS-526 '64



BASE STOREKEEPER
Max Gildner



ET1(SS) USS Tullibee (SSN-597) '71



MEMBERSHIP / RECRUITER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



WEBMASTER
Marlin E. Helms, Jr.



MM1(SS) USS Spadefish SSN-668 '74



BASE NEWSLETTER
Max Gildner



ET1(SS) USS Tullibee (SSN-597) '71



BASE PHOTOGRAPHER
Bruce Eltzroth
Associate Member

ET1(SU) USS Sculpin (SSN-590)



BASE CHAPLIN
David Pope, EAWS
Associate Member

OMSUBGRU-9, FP DET. 2



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE, USSVI

Meetings, Greetings, Gatherings & Calendar

AUGUST - 2026

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Scheduled Meetings:

Base meetings are
on the 3rd Thursday of each month
at
MIMI'S CAFÉ, 10945 PARKSIDE DRIVE
located in Turkey Creek,
Knoxville, TN



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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Smoky-Mountain-Submarine-Veterans/273222054302>

09.07 – LABOR DAY

09/11 – PATRIOT DAY

09/17 – SMB MEETING

SEPTEMBER

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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



VETERANS ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES

Operation Vet Rescue

Rescuing & Rebuilding Lives of Homeless Veterans



(865) 284-3188

info@ovrtn.org

P.O. Box 23, Greenback, N 37742

VA Regional Office Benefits Assistance on every 4th Friday at 1557 Downtown West Blvd. Units 20-21 Knoxville, TN 0900-1400 Hours

East TN Military Assistance Council Calendar of Events web site: www.etmac.org/calendar

U.S. Military Veterans Discounts

Tennessee State Discounted Fees and Taxes

- ☐ \$10 one-time fee for hunting and fishing license for eligible disabled veterans.
- ☐ Distinctive motorcycle and vehicle license plates; no fee for currently enlisted personnel.
- ☐ Exemption from motor vehicle privilege tax for eligible permanently and totally disabled veteran or former POW.
- ☐ Reduced fee state park lodging, camping, and golf.
- ☐ Veterans Designation on drivers license.



(SS) CHALLENGE COINS LLC

www.SSChallengeCoins.com

31889 Marshall Rd
Jacksonville, Missouri
65260-2011

816.261.7784



Shelly Saxton

CEO/Owner

SubmarineCoins@gmail.com



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1078 meets at **The Redemption Church** located at 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, Knoxville, TN on the 2nd Tuesday of



The Honor and Remember Flag has been designated as the official TN state symbol of remembrance to honor fallen military service members for their service.

For information on obtaining one refer to:

<http://www.honorandremember.org/the-flag/flag-presentation>

VETERAN'S HOTLINE

988#1

OR

(844) 647-1354

SUBVEST

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Who Already Have.

**The only place to get
CUSTOM SEWN**

**Submarine Vests, Hats,
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**A Base Storekeepers Dream...
Discounts & No Stock to order
Call to set up an account!**

www.SUBVEST.com

Jenny Dugan - Sewing Wench
757-318-0138 B4 8pm



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE COMMANDER



One of our and all veterans' organizations problems is membership. This should be a subject of discussion in our next meeting. We have done public events in the past to make our presence known. A common response when meeting another submariner is that they did not know that the USSVI existed. COVID restricted our public event participation and sadly we have not recovered, wearing sub paraphernalia would help but more public events need to be done We meet on the 17th in September; we can talk about it then.

VICE-COMMANDER

No Report Submitted

BASE TREASURER

On **August 20th**, we had a balance of : **\$5,112.27**

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN

Nothing currently planned

BASE NEWSLETTER

Comments or suggestions for future articles are always appreciated. gildnerml@tds.net

BASE STORESKEEPER

The 2027 Submarine Veterans Calendars will be coming out soon. Please let me know if you are interested in getting one so I can work on making our order. It is expected that the cost will be similar to last year but will depend on how many we order. Contact me at gildnerml@tds.net

We currently have the following items on hand for sale:

Baseball caps w/SMB patch (White, Pink, or Blue) - \$14.00. Straw Hats w/SMB patch - \$12.00. SMB Iron-on Patches - \$7.00. SMB Logo Magnetic Car Plates - \$12.00. USSVI or SMB Window Stickers - \$3.00. White SMB 11 oz. Coffee Mugs - \$16.00. "Nuke, I am your father" coins — \$20.00 each or 6 coins for \$100.00

[Remember, all purchases go to support your Smoky Mountain Base](#)



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE MEETING MINUTES



Date: August 20, 2026

Presiding: Marlin Helms, Base Commander

Meeting called to Order at 1900 hours. Dove the Boat!

The Base Chaplain presented the Invocation.

The Base Commander led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Vice Commander read the USSVI Creed.

COB and Vice Commander. led the Tolling of the Boats.

COB hosted member/guest introductions.

Number of Attendees: 13 members, 10 guest/wife's

July minutes read and approved

Base Treasurer reported - \$5,112.27 in the account.

Correspondence/Discussion: - None

Committees:

- Newsletter – Max Gildner- need officer inputs, need suggestions on what to be in Newsletter
- Library – Marlin Helms - 2 thumb drives with books, trying to figure out how to get it out
- Storekeeper – Max Gildner buy something
- Membership – Marlin Helms - stable
- Scouting – Marlin Helms - still no contacts
- Media Manager – Marlin Helms - nothing new
- Social Committee - Dick Love - not present

Old business:

2026 Holland Club Induction.

New Members are Mike Hacking, Author Miller, John Kisvardai, and Charles Teuton

New Business: None

Good of the Order

- 50/50 - \$87

Next Meeting: 1900 hrs. Thursday, September 17, 2026, at **MiMi's Café, 10945 Parkside Dr., Knoxville, TN 37934.**

Meeting Adjourned at 2015 hrs. Surfaced the Boat!

Ernie Ball, Base Secretary



Lost Boats of August



USS BULLHEAD (SS-332) – 6 August 1945



84 MEN LOST

USS Bullhead (SS-332) On July 31, 1945, the *Bullhead*, captained by Lieutenant Commander Edward R. Holt, Jr., left Fremantle on her third and final war patrol. She had received orders to transit the Lombok Strait and patrol in the Java Sea with several other American and British submarines. On August 2, 1945, she kept a rendezvous with the Dutch submarine *Q 21* about 350 miles south of Lombok Strait and transferred mail to her. On August 6, 1945, the *Bullhead* reported that she had transited the Lombok Strait safely was on station in the Java Sea. She was never heard from again and was presumed lost with all hands.

Postwar analysis of enemy records indicated that the *Bullhead* was ambushed by a Japanese Army plane off Bali on August 6, 1945, at 0835 hours. The pilot of a Mitsubishi Ki-51 "Sonia" dropped two sixty-kilogram bombs on the submarine. The pilot claimed two direct hits and said he saw oil and bubbles coming from the area where the submarine had submerged. The *Bullhead* was the last U. S. submarine lost during World War II. The attack happened at coordinates 8° 20' S, 115° 42' E, which is very close to the Bali coast. The *Bullhead* received two battle stars for her World War II service.

USS FLIER (SS-250) - 13 August 1944



80 MEN LOST

USS FLIER (SS-250) Sailed 2 August 1944, on her second war patrol, bound for the coast of Indochina via the Lombok Strait, Macassar Strait and Balabac Strait. At about 2200 on 12 August, while transiting Balabac Strait on the surface, she struck a naval mine. She sank in about a minute, but 13 officers and men were able to clamber out. Eight of them reached the beach of Mantangula Island after 15 hours in the water. Friendly natives guided them to a coast-watcher, who arranged for them to be picked up by submarine, and on the night of 30-31 August, they were taken on board by *Redfin*.

USS S-39 (SS-144) - 14 August 1942

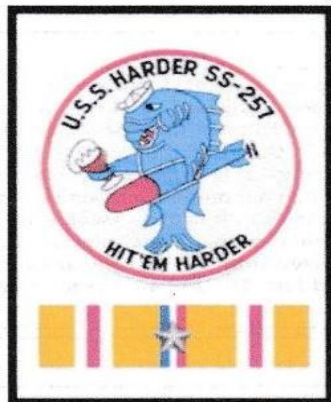


NO MEN LOST

USS S-39 (SS-144) was lost on 14 August 1942 when it was destroyed after grounding on a reef south of Rossel Island Louisiande Archipelago. All of the crew were rescued.

USS HARDER (SS-257) - 24 August 1944

84 MEN LOST



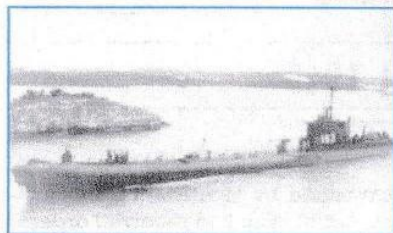
On August 5, 1944, **USS HARDER**, captained by Commander Samuel D. Dealey, left Fremantle for her sixth and final war patrol. Commander Dealey had been chosen to lead a wolf pack made up of **HARDER**, **USS HAKE** (SS-256), and **USS HADDO** (SS-255). **HARDER** and **HAKE** left together. Lieutenant Commander Chester Nimitz's **HADDO** would leave three days later. The three boats would rendezvous off Subic Bay and hunt for enemy shipping south of Luzon Strait.

On the morning of 24 August 1944, two ships emerged from Dasol Bay - a mine-sweeper and the old Thai destroyer *Phra Ruang*. **HAKE** maneuvered to attack the destroyer, but broke off when it turned back into the bay. Meanwhile, the Japanese minesweeper continued out, pinging continually, and **HAKE** moved off to evade, as her Commanding Officer Frank Haylor, caught a last glimpse of **HARDER'S** periscope at 0647. At 0728, Haylor heard a string of 15 depth charge explosions in the distance; then nothing. **USS Harder** (SS-257) - Sank in Philippine Waters, 24 August 1944 after being depth charged by IJN Escort CD-22.

In the final analysis, Sam Dealey and **HARDER** had sunk 16 enemy ships, with total tonnage in excess of 55,000 - enough to put him among the top five US submarine skippers.



Lost Boats of August



USS Bass (SF-5) (SS-164) - 17 August 1942

26 MEN LOST

USS Bass (SF-5/SS-164), a *Barracuda*-class submarine and one of the "V-boats", was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the bass. Her keel was laid at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. She was launched as **V-2 (SF-5)** on 27 December, 1924. *Bass* was designed to meet the fleet submarine requirement of 21 knots (39 km/h) surface speed for operating with contemporary battleships.

Inter-War Period

V-2 was assigned to Submarine Division 20 (SubDiv 20) and cruised along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean Sea until November 1927, when the Division sailed for San Diego, California, arriving on 3 December 1927. V-2 operated with the fleet on the West Coast, in the Hawaiian Islands, and in the Caribbean Sea until December 1932. During this period her 5 inch (127 mm)/51 caliber deck gun was replaced by a 3 inch (76 mm)/50 caliber weapon.

Renamed *Bass* on 9 March 1931, she was assigned to SubDiv 12 in April. On 1 July, her hull classification symbol was changed from **SF-5** to **SS-164**. On 2 January 1933, she was assigned to Rotating Reserve SubDiv 15, San Diego. *Bass* rejoined the fleet again in July and cruised along the West Coast, in the Canal Zone, and in the Hawaiian Islands until January 1937. She then departed the West Coast and arrived at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 18 February, 1937, where she went out of commission in reserve on 9 June.

World War II

Bass was recommissioned at Portsmouth, New Hampshire on 5 September, 1940, and assigned to SubDiv 9, Atlantic Fleet. From February–November 1941, she operated along the New England coast and made two trips to St. George, Bermuda. She arrived at Coco Solo, Canal Zone on 24 November and was on duty there when the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1942, *Bass* was attached to Submarine Squadron 3 (SubRon 3), SubDiv 31, Atlantic Fleet. From March–August. While based at Coco Solo, she made four war patrols in the Pacific, off Balboa, Panama. While at sea on 17 August, 1942, a fire broke out in the after battery room and quickly spread to the aft torpedo room and starboard main electric motor, resulting in the death of 26 enlist-ed men by asphyxiation. The following day, USS *ANTAEUS* (AS-21) arrived to assist the submarine and escorted her into the Gulf of Dulce, Costa Rica. Both then proceeded to Balboa.

Bass remained in the Canal Zone until **October 1942**, when she departed for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, arriving on 19 October. *Bass* was then overhauled at Philadelphia Navy Yard. At this time she was converted to a *cargo submarine* with the removal of her main engines, severely restricting her speed on the remaining auxiliary engines. *Bass* proceeded to New London, Connecticut where she conducted secret experiments off Block Island in December 1943. She was again in Philadelphia for repairs from January–March 1944. During the remainder of the year, she was attached to SubRon 1, Atlantic Fleet, and operated out of New London in the area between Long Island and Block Island. *Bass* was decommissioned at the Naval Submarine Base New London on 3 March, 1945 and expended as a target for the Mark 24 Fido "mine" (actually an acoustic homing torpedo) on 18 March, 1945.

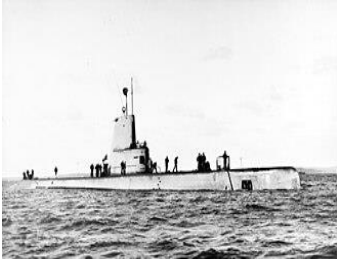


Lost Boats of August



POST WW-II Lost Boats

USS COCHINO (SS-345) and USS TUSK (SS-436) - 26 August 1949



1 MAN LOST from Cochino and 6 MEN LOST from Tusk

USS Cochino (SS-345) was lost on 26-Aug-1949 when it sank in the Norwegian Sea after a fire, one crewman from Cochino and 6 crewmen of the **USS TUSK (SS-426)** were lost overboard due to the heavy seas while rescuing the **USS COCHINO's** crew.

USS Cochino (SS-345) was a *Balao*-class submarine in service with the United States Navy from 1945 to 1949. *Cochino* was named for the cochino, a triggerfish, found in the Atlantic. *Cochino* was laid down by the Electric Boat Company, of Groton, Connecticut, on 13 April 1944. She was launched on 20 April 1945, and commissioned on 25 August 1945. *Cochino* underwent major renovations at Electric Boat beginning on 11 May 1948, where she was converted to a GUPPY class snorkel boat.

On 25 August 1949, *Cochino* ran into a violent polar storm off Norway. The huge waves slammed the submarine's snorkel so violently, and jolted the boat so severely, that the pounding caused an electrical fire and battery explosion, followed by the release of deadly hydrogen gas. In wretched weather conditions, men of *Cochino* and *Tusk* fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. A second battery explosion on 26 August prompted an "Abandon Ship" order, and after the crew made a dangerous rope transfer to *USS Tusk* (SS-436). Shortly thereafter, the *Cochino* sank. *Cochino's* only fatality was a civilian from the Bureau of Ships, technician Robert W. Philo, swept overboard by an icy wave. *Tusk* lost six of her own men in the same manner during the rescue operation.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE MEMBERS ON ETERNAL PATROL

Anthony Thornton – 8/3/2013

Charley Odom – 8/23/2013

Jeffery Oleson – 8/4/2022

Arnold Baldwin – 8/31/2010



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE

AUGUST 2026

HOLLAND CLUB INDUCTEES



USSVI Smoky Mountain Base is proud to induct four of its members into the USSVI Holland Club. The Holland Club is for USSVI members in good standing that have earned their submarine qualifications fifty or more years ago. They represent the heritage of the U.S. submarine service.

There are no ex-submariners. Submarine qualification passes a man into a mystic brotherhood of undersea warriors, and it marks him forever as one of a special breed. Although they no longer sail beneath the sea, they still wear their 'dolphins' with honor and pride. These Holland Club shipmates and those who have gone before served our Nation extremely well. They have justly earned the honor and respect we show them when they are inducted into the Holland Club. We, indeed, are honored by their presence, and all submariners should look forward with anticipation to the day when they too may qualify for membership in this special group.

This year's Smoky Mountain Base inductees are:



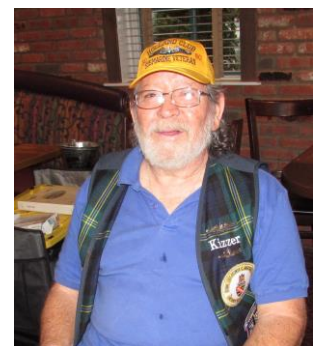
Michael Hacking



Aurther Miller



Charles Teuton



John Kisvardai



2026 Holland Club Inductees



SMB Holland Club Members Present

(Photos by Base Photographer – Bruce Eltzroth)



DOLLY PARTON IN APPRECIATION



This month the world lost Dolly Parton who was known world-wide as a beloved singer, songwriter, philanthropist, actress, playwright, entrepreneur, and author. She came from East Tennessee poverty raising to become a global icon. She never forgot her roots and spent her adult life giving back to those in need. Our Smoky Mountain Base Chaplin, David Pope, submitted the following to put things in better perspective.

The Imagination Library:

Presuming a standard children's book is roughly 1/2 inch thick, the Imagination Library has donated 69 metric tons of books sent all over the world! That is a stack 2,873 **miles** tall. Last year, an almost unbelievable one book every 3/4 of a second.

Hospitals:

In 2007, she gave a concert to raise funds for a hospital for Sevier County. The Leconte Medical Center opened in 2010.

On February 26, of this year, following an undisclosed (but presumably massive) donation. Children's Hospital of East Tennessee held a ribbon cutting ceremony and is now officially the Dolly Parton Children's Hospital.

Gatlinburg Fire Victims:

She gave a significant number of displaced East Tennesseans \$1000 each a month for six months out of pocket after the 2015 fire. Then later, \$5000 more each, just because. Then she started a permanent fund to support recovery. By the time all was said and done, \$12,000,000 was donated.

Hurricane Helene:

The Dolly Parton Foundation gave \$1,000,000 to recovery efforts, and she matched it with another million out of pocket.

In all, her estimated \$600 million of lifetime giving is six metric tons of US \$100 bills, or a 2,150-foot-high stack. However, giving doesn't always mean money or material things.

During the COVID Pandemic, she gave \$1,000,000 to Vanderbilt University for Covid research leading to the Moderna vaccine. She also read picture books on YouTube to reassure children on [Thursday](#) nights.

On [October 2](#), 1979, she hosted a fundraiser at and for Ford's Theatre in Washington DC. The \$250/head black-tie event's guest list read like a who's who of country music. Tennessee's Senator Howard Baker, from Huntsville (a Scott County town barely worthy of consideration as a town), was among the political worthies at the event. And the wife of a former small town Georgia peanut farmer was escorted to the event by a Navy submariner who turned out all right.

When I went to Germany a few years ago on my last Reserve annual training, random people on the streets marveled at my accent. They asked where I was from. I replied "Tennessee." That got a blank look. I then said "Dolly Parton." Then there was instant understanding and their faces lit up.

When I say she was the most prominent and instantly recognizable Tennessean on Earth, I'm not exaggerating. Dolly Parton represented the best of what we can be.



CUSTOM SMOKY MOUNTAIN BASE APPAREL



I'm sure many of you have already seen one of these t-shirts that are fashioned after the USSVI vest. The ones currently out there admittedly appear a bit faded but were limited by the available processes at the time. Today's printing processes are much better with brighter colors rivaling embroidering. The clothing is Navy Blue in color

Shirts start at \$35. If you're interested in ordering one (or more) of these shirts, including a variety of t-shirts and sweatshirts, please use the link below. Orders are being taken exclusively via the form at the link below.

<https://forms.gle/vz1rnuKoRghB1AYZ7>

A sample mockup is pictured below.



I've also added SUBMARINE SWEETIE and SUBMARINE WIFE designs for your significant others.

Editor's Note: The order form is easy to use and offers various forms of payment for your order. Half of the net profits will go to support our base.



2026 USSVI NATIONAL CONVENTION



OMNI HOTEL IN CORPUS CRISTI, TEXAS

EVENT DATES SEPTEMBER 6TH – 11TH

Plan of the Week

SUNDAY Sept 6, 2026

1200 – 1700 Vendor/Exhibit Set-Up
1200 – 1800 Registration/Info Desk Open
1600 – 2200 Corpus Christi Hooks Baseball Game

MONDAY Sept 7, 2026 (LABOR DAY)

0600 – 1400 Fishing Trip #1 (Gulf) out of Port Aransas
0800 – 1800 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1700 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0830 – 1200 Texas State Aquarium Trip
0900 – 1200 Sightseeing Historical/WWII Heritage Trail Tour
1230 – 1430 Railroad Brewery Luncheon
1900 Welcome Aboard Party

TUESDAY Sept 8, 2026

0700 – 1300 Fishing Trip #2 (Bay) out of Corpus Christi
0900 – 1700 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1500 Grand Excursion Tour
0900 – 1700 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0800 – 1100 USSVI Pre-ABM/CF Meeting
1100 – 1600 Beer-BBQ and Spirits Tour #1
1800 – 2000 Buccaneer Cruise - Sight Seeing
1900 – 2100 Texas Tease Sunset Bay Cruise

WEDNESDAY Sept 9, 2026

0800 – 1100 Sightseeing Historical/WWII Heritage Trail Tour
0800 – 0915 Base Officer Meeting (VC, Tres, Yeoman, Chaplain, etc.)
0900 – 1700 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1700 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0930 – 1045 DC/BC Meeting
1130 – 1330 Holland Club Luncheon
1330 – 1800 Spirits – BBQ and Beer Tour #2

WEDNESDAY Sept 9, 2026 (Cont'd)

1330 – 1430 Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) Meeting
1500 – 1600 Museum and Memorial Meeting
1900 Halfway Night Party

THURSDAY Sept 10, 2026

0900 – 1300 Registration/Info Desk Open
0900 – 1300 Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0800 – 0900 Ham Operators
0800 – 0915 Workshop #1 (Topic TBD)
0900 – 1000 ISA Meeting
0930 – 1045 Workshop #2 (Topic TBD)
1100 – 1300 Luncheon
1400 – 1600 Tolling Ceremony
1600 – Till Post Tolling Reception/Dinner (TBD)

FRIDAY Sept 11, 2026 (9/11 - 25th ANNIVERSARY)

0900 – 1600 Registration/Info Desk Open
1100 – 14 or 1600(TBD) Vendor/Hospitality Area Open
0830 – 1100 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
(All members strongly encouraged to attend)
1130 – 1230 Post ABM/CF Meeting
1700 – 1800 Pre-Banquet Social Hour
1800 – 2100 Annual Awards Banquet

NOTES

- Service Project Potentially sometime during week (TBD)
- All Times subject to change – as much advance notice as possible will be given, POD updated on wen page, Social announcements and listed at registration desk.
- 2 Day Craft Fair possible (Tues-Wednesday)



SUBMARINES IN THE MOVIES

PART 2 – DURING WORLD WAR TWO

WORLD WAR TWO WORLD WAR TWO



During World War Two there were surprisingly few submarine movies produced. They were busy fighting that war and many of the actors had enlisted into the services. However, there were two submarine movies produced that were of notable content and have garnered high status among submarine movie buffs. Twentieth Century Fox's "Crash Dive" and Warner Brother's "Destination Tokyo" were both released in 1943. The purpose of both was to promote public morale, patriotism, and recruitment into the Naval Submarine service.

Crash Dive was somewhat unique for the time in that it was a Technicolor movie and takes place in the North Atlantic. US submarines actually did very limited operations there and were much better utilized in the Pacific campaign.

The film started us out with a great little sequence in which a group of awesome ELCO 77 Ft. PT boats mount a mission to rescue American survivors floating on a raft at sea. They must defend themselves from a German sub, which the PT boats destroy with apparent ease by dropping depth charges into the water. This is rare color footage of the PT boats. These are the type of boat that saw intense combat against the Japanese Navy's "Tokyo Express" in the Guadalcanal area early in World War II.

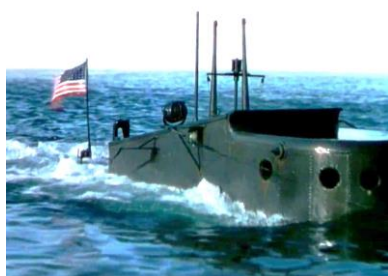
The next portion of the movie is a tried-and-true bit about the CO and XO chasing the same love interest. This was a frequently plot of movies of the time. Fortunately, it is broken up by an action sequence, in which the American submarine, the fictional USS *Corsair*, does battle with a German Q-ship Raider. The Q-ship is a heavily armed merchant ship with concealed weaponry, designed to lure submarines into making surface attacks.

The best part of the film is their mission to infiltrate and destroy a German operations base in Greenland. There were some great shots of the *Corsair* playing cat and mouse with Nazi vessels, ghosting their trajectories through an underwater minefield. Then after they make it into the base's waters, a daring land raid to place explosives all over the Nazi installation. Buildings begin exploding, tommy-guns begin firing, flames begin raining down from the sky, and Nazis begin dying! The American soldiers make a harrowing dash back to the water as the island base erupts in fire and chaos! The *Corsair* clears the way for their escape, firing torpedoes and disabling the enemy ships.

The special effects for *Crash Dive* were top-notch. Not only did they make great use of actual military watercraft, but they also had some excellent scale models that allowed for some wonderful effects of massive destruction. It was an exciting sequence that was excellently filmed! The stuntmen and the pyrotechnic technicians really had their work cut out for them and they came through with flying colors. The film won the Oscar for special visual effects.

The most interesting detail is the character of Oliver Cromwell Jones, played by black actor Ben Carter. He's given equal emphasis with second-string hero James Gleason. Besides working as a cook, Jones concerns himself with the older sailor's health and goes along on the climactic commando raid. He "joked" that he doesn't need to blacken his face for the raid. He stands next to the officers on the bridge when they pull into port. This is an acknowledgement on the seaman life of Dorie Miller, an African American messman who was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic actions aboard the U.S.S. *Arizona* during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Jones character was used to assure blacks that their contribution to the war effort was appreciated, when the discrimination in real life was shockingly brutal.

The U.S. Navy provided naval equipment and allowed access to their fleet of submarines and also supplied service personnel for the filming. Background shots for this movie were filmed at the United States Navy's Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut. It provides a brief but interesting look at the base, all equipment, costumes, code, talk and actions are like how the real Navy worked in WW2. The USS Marlin (SS-205) served as the *Corsair* for the surface and bridge scenes.



Designation Tokyo is a black and white movie known as the granddaddy of submarine films. It is noted for its all-star cast of established actors even in supportive roles. It is the story of a submarine assigned to sail to Japan and obtain weather information in support of the famous Doolittle Raid on Tokyo.

Members of the cast spent time at the U.S. Navy's Mare Island Naval Shipyard familiarize themselves with submarine procedures and operations. Technical advisors for the film were the captain of the USS *Wahoo* (SS-238) LCDR Dudley Morton and crewmember MMC(SS) Andy Lennox. Filming of the movie was shot at the shipyard and near Portuguese Bend off Redondo Beach Ca. for surface scenes. The actual submarine used is not documented. The model of the fictitious USS *Copperfin* was based on a Gato Class boat but with equipment and apparatus used on numerous different types of subs. Interior scenes were on specially constructed sets that were more spacious to accommodate filming and lighting.

The appendectomy operation conducted by the character Pharmacist's Mate "Pills" was inspired by an actual appendix operation performed aboard the submarine USS *Seadragon* (SS-194) in 1942. The real-life appendectomy was performed by 22-year-old Pharmacist's Mate Wheeler B. Lipes with the help of an assistant.

The two were able to extract the appendix of Seaman Darrell Dean Rector under very trying conditions with limited resources and skills. They used kitchen utensils and equipment including a strainer and bent spoons as retractors; alcohol taken from torpedoes, and sterilized pajamas as surgical gowns. The sub's crew had believed that Lipes was the most qualified person to perform such a life-or-death operation, as he had apparently observed appendectomies before. Lipes was persuaded to do the operation by his fellow crewmen. The operation took place 120 feet below the surface of the South China Sea.

The success of *Destination Tokyo* was largely due to the unprecedented level of cooperation achieved between Warner Bros. and the U.S. Navy. For Hollywood to gain access to this world, the studio had to grant the military command a degree of influence that extended far beyond simple consulting. The production became a true collaboration, with the Navy effectively placing its hand directly on the helm of the film's narrative. This meant the presence of technical advisors on set, men who had served in the boats and understood the mechanics of the Silent Service, ensuring that every loading sequence, every gauge read, and every command given was accurate.

The environment faced by the men aboard is shown in numerous ways: surfaces seem to drip with condensation, every sound—the ping of sonar, the ominous creak of the hull under pressure—carries significance. This composite crew was a careful ideological creation, showing various religious affiliations and civilian histories folded seamlessly into a unified military unit. Again, respect among the men is earned through demonstrated competence; the ability to fix a failing motor, stand a watch, identify a sonar reading, or handle a medical emergency under pressure. It could be said that the focus was on merit.





USSVI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular ☐ Life ☐ Associate ☐

OUR CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

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(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

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The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____

Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$140.00; 3 Yr term: \$85.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$30.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$35.00;

Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$120.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$240; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$360.00; 46 thru 55 = \$500.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 600.00;

Smoky Mountain Base dues are \$15 per year (\$10 after August 1st).

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Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member? (Mandatory for Associate Members) _____

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YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ If other military service, What Branch? _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ Mil Retired (Y/N): _____ On Active Duty? (Y/N): _____

YR entered Mil Service: _____ YR left Mil Service _____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

☐ Check here if your Military Service falls within these time periods: Dec 7, 1941, thru Dec 31, 1946, June 27, 1950, thru Jan 31, 1955; Aug 5, 1964, thru May 7, 1975; and from Aug 2, 1990 to date.

☐ Check here if you have been awarded an Expeditionary Medal.

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

2. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

3. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

4. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

5. _____ Hull# _____ Rank/Rate _____ From Yr. _____ to Yr. _____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Daughter, Parent, Other)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Tel: _____

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Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership DUES to Marlin Helms, or if you do not know of a base near you, mail to
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